



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 5060.19B
PAC
18 Jul 03

MARINE CORPS ORDER 5060.19B

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: AWARD OF THE TITLE HONORARY MARINE

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 5061.12C
(b) MCO 12451.2C

1. Situation. The Honorary Marine title is designed to reinforce the special bond between the American people and the Corps by recognizing individuals in the civilian community who have made extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps. This Order establishes revised eligibility requirements and nominating procedures for award of the title Honorary Marine, and complies with the provisions and policies established by the references. Reference (a) provides information concerning honorary awards to private citizens and organizations. Reference (b) provides information and procedures for administration of the Honorary Awards Program for civilian employees of the Marine Corps.

2. Cancellation. MCO 5060.19A.

3. Mission. To promulgate revised guidance for eligibility considerations and nomination procedures for award of the title Honorary Marine.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent

(a) To appropriately recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves through noteworthy service or support to the Marine Corps. The title Marine is a revered designation that affords a special distinction to those who earn it. Therefore, Honorary Marine nominations must be discerning and objective.

(b) The title Honorary Marine should not be given merely to reward or foster friendships. Rather, it should be based on service and support to the Marine Corps that clearly surpasses the norm. Other significant service to the Marine Corps should be handled through other award options.

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Distribution is unlimited.**

(c) The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) can officially designate an individual as an Honorary Marine to acknowledge extraordinary contributions to the Marine Corps.

(2) Concept of Operations

(a) Commanding generals, commanding officers, and officers-in-charge are authorized to nominate individuals deemed deserving of the title Honorary Marine.

(b) All nominations must be endorsed by a general officer within their chain of command. By direction signatures will not be accepted in lieu of general officer signatures.

(c) Retired general officers may submit nominations.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Honorary Marine nominations will be submitted to the CMC (PA). The Director of Public Affairs is the central coordinating authority for all requests.

(2) Director of Public Affairs will determine appropriateness and staff all proposals to an awards board consisting of the principals from DC M&RA, DC PP&O, DC P&R, SJA, PA, CMC Counsel, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. The Awards Board will make its recommendation and forward to the ACMC. The CMC will make the final decision.

(3) Honorary Marine nominations require extensive staffing at HQMC; decisions are not normally made before 45 days after receipt of the nomination. Decisions prior to this 45-day timeframe will be CMC-directed. To receive CMC-directed status, a general officer must contact the CMC directly for endorsement, thus bypassing normal staffing procedures.

(4) Per reference (a), under no circumstances will individuals be advised that they are under consideration for award of the title Honorary Marine, nor will a nominating or endorsing official anticipate approval of a nomination by setting a presentation date in advance of final action.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) An individual may be designated an Honorary Marine only under certain circumstances. Qualifying criteria includes:

(a) A terminally ill child that has some unique or qualifying link to the military or the Marine Corps.

(b) An individual who has given extraordinary service or support to the Marine Corps, and for whom any lesser form of recognition would be insufficient.

(c) Deceased individuals whose actions or contributions on behalf of the Marine Corps would have merited consideration before their death.

(2) Honorary Marine nominations should be made on an exceptional basis and should not be used just to show appreciation, as a group award, or in recognition of official or contracted duties.

(3) There are other appropriate forms of recognition for individuals who support or serve the Marine Corps on a level that is below the extraordinary.

(a) Public Service awards are available to recognize an individual's service. These nominations should be made directly to the staffing agency prescribed in the references.

(b) For certain groups or individuals who have provided a one-time contribution to the Marine Corps, CMC letters of appreciation are an option that may be appropriate.

(c) Commanders desiring to recognize civilian employees who perform extraordinary service for the Marine Corps are encouraged to pursue appropriate civilian recognition awards as prescribed in reference (b).

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Commanders are directed to use the provisions of this Order for Honorary Marine nominations. Nominations may be made in standard naval letter format with forwarding endorsements from the originator's chain of command.

b. Submissions that do not comply with the provisions and criteria of this Order will not be processed.

c. Individuals designated as an Honorary Marine or who receive other official recognition will be informed that this recognition carries no entitlement to pay or benefits.

6. Command and Signal

a. Signal. This Order is effective 23 Jun 2003.

b. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.



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